

Application No.: 10/589,963
Amendment dated August 20, 2009
Response to Final Office Action dated May 20, 2009

Attorney Docket No. Serie 6501

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for revamping a combined system consisting of a blast furnace supplied with oxidizing fluid issuing at least partially from an air gas separation unit (ASU), wherein more than 50% of the flow from the blower feeding the blast furnace before revamping is injected into a cryogenic air gas separation unit in order to produce oxygen with a purity above 90% by volume of O₂, a post-revamping blast furnace feed fluid consisting of pure oxygen or oxygen diluted with air produced by the cryogenic separation unit, said oxygen of purity above 90% by volume of O₂ being fed to the blast furnace in order to obtain over 90% by volume of O₂ in the post-revamping blast furnace feed fluid, the blower air flow rate and/or pressure of the air issuing from the blower being controlled by a controller which measures this flow rate and/or pressure at the inlet and/or outlet of the air cleaning stage, placed upstream of the separation unit, in order to control the flow rate or pressure of the air issuing from the blower, ~~the blast furnace feed fluid consisting of pure oxygen or oxygen diluted with air produced by the cryogenic separation unit.~~

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the blower flow rate is controlled by a controller of which the setpoint is calculated from the flow rate and/or pressure characteristics of at least one of the fluids produced by the ASU.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the air issuing from the blower is cooled to a temperature below 50°C before being recompressed in a second compressor.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the blower is controlled using a FIC controller of which the measurement and setpoint derive from one of the fluids produced by the ASU.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 7, wherein the blower is controlled by a PIC controller of which the flow rate or pressure measurement and of which the setpoint value are determined from the fluid entering the second compressor.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein the second compressor is controlled by a FIC controller, the measured parameters and setpoint issuing from the flow rate and/or pressure measurement of the ASU.